

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs**

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18-76067

February 26, 2018

Ken Seiling
Chair
The Regional Municipality of Waterloo
150 Frederick Street, 1st Floor
Kitchener ON N2G 4J3

Dear Chair Seiling:

As you know, the province of Ontario is consulting on our plan to protect water resources by growing the Greenbelt. Our intention is to increase protections of important water features in the Greater Golden Horseshoe for current and future generations.

The initial feedback we have received from the Region of Waterloo indicates strong support for the goals of the Greenbelt. We are also aware that there are concerns about the impact a potential Greenbelt expansion might have on existing environmental protections in the Region.

I realize the Region of Waterloo is the largest urban municipality in Canada to rely almost exclusively on groundwater supplies for its drinking water. Your Region has long shown leadership in protecting natural heritage features, water resources and agricultural areas. You, your council, Regional staff and local residents have worked diligently to establish and strengthen those protections. I know those policies are the product of years of hard work.

Our government appreciates the importance of the strong environmental protections in the Region. If we were to move forward with a Greenbelt expansion, we would work with the Region of Waterloo to ensure that a new Greenbelt boundary does not result in a reduction of existing local protections. That may include potential changes to the Greenbelt Plan if they are needed.

We also appreciate the importance of making use of the best available information and the enormous amount of expertise your Region has regarding this issue. We welcome your expertise and advice in this area and will take it into consideration when we consider our next steps.

I want to thank you and the Region for your leadership on this issue. I look forward to your report on our proposal to grow the Greenbelt in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Sincerely,



Bill Mauro
Minister

- c. Tom Galloway, Councillor
Les Armstrong, Councillor
Elizabeth Clarke, Councillor
Doug Craig, Councillor
Sue Foxton, Councillor
Dave Jaworsky, Councillor
Helen Jowett, Councillor
Karl Kiefer, Councillor
Geoff Lorentz, Councillor
Jane Mitchell, Councillor
Joe Nowak, Councillor
Karen Redman, Councillor
Sandy Shantz, Councillor
Sean Strickland, Councillor
Berry Vrbancovic, Councillor